

PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE

(CH-0165)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Borrower and guarantor:	Republic of Chile	
Executing agency:	Ministry of the Interior (SEGEGOB)	
Amount and source:	IDB: (OC)	US\$ 8.7 million
	Local:	<u>US\$ 5.8 million</u>
	Total:	US\$14.5 million
Terms and conditions:	Amortization period:	25 years
	Grace period:	36 months
	Disbursement period:	36 months
	Interest rate:	variable
	Inspection and supervision:	1.00%
	Credit fee:	0.75%
	Currency:	US\$ from the Ordinary Capital under the Single Currency Facility
Objectives:	The general objective of the program is to foster conditions conducive to more active citizen participation in the design and execution of activities that will enhance the common welfare of Chileans.	
Description:	<p>To achieve this objective, the program has been designed with four components: (i) strengthening civil society; (ii) citizen participation in public policies; (iii) encouraging volunteerism; and (iv) a communication strategy.</p> <p>The purpose of the component for strengthening civil society is to improve the institutional framework and create the instruments needed to strengthen the performance of civil society organizations (CSOs). To achieve this objective, the following subcomponents are planned: (i) legal and regulatory framework; (ii) financing instruments; (iii) institutional strengthening; and (iv) a single registry of CSOs.</p>	

The main objectives of the component for **citizen participation in public policies** are to strengthen the State's capacity to involve citizens in public policies and programs, and to empower citizens in areas of public interest that affect them.

To achieve these objectives, the component has five subcomponents: (i) design and implementation of a system for monitoring and evaluating citizen participation in public policies and programs; (ii) training, technical assistance and, where appropriate, redesign of public programs and policies in terms of citizen participation; (iii) a "Social Observatory" to generate information on user perceptions of their opportunities for participation; (iv) institutional strengthening of the Social Organizations Division (DOS) of the Ministry of the Interior; and (v) development of a regulatory and institutional framework for creating and implementing an Ombudsman's Office [*Defensoría del Ciudadano*].

The objective of the **volunteerism** component is to encourage and broaden the role and scope of volunteerism as an expression of citizen participation. To achieve this objective, activities will be supported in four subcomponents: (i) research on the current status of volunteerism in Chile and abroad; (ii) a communication strategy; (iii) design, implementation and evaluation of a pilot program for promoting volunteerism; and (iv) a proposed national strategy to promote volunteerism.

The objective of the **communication strategy** component is to inform and increase awareness in civil society of the various program activities, and other relevant initiatives, including the degree to which the government is meeting its commitments in the area of citizen participation. For these purposes, activities will be supported in three subcomponents: (i) a media campaign, (ii) a plan for nationwide dissemination of successful experiences, and (iii) the design of a web site.

**The Bank's
country and
sector strategy:**

The principal objectives of the Bank's strategy as set forth in the country paper are to increase Chile's competitiveness, reduce social and regional inequalities and deepen democracy by strengthening a more participatory society and a more modern State. The proposed program is consistent with that strategy, in that it will strengthen civil society organizations in Chile and reinforce their relationship with the government and the private sector, thereby achieving greater citizen participation in decision-making on the design, execution and evaluation of public policies, and making these institutions more sustainable over the long term.

Environmental and social review:

The program will have no direct environmental impact.

Benefits:

The program will help to strengthen mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations, the public sector and the private sector, in a number of spheres, with a view to developing new agendas for sharing public responsibilities among these three players, and thereby ensuring that development will be more sustainable, and democracy more participatory, at the national as well as the regional and local levels. Actions will be supported to improve the institutional and regulatory framework by creating instruments to strengthen the presence and performance of civil society organizations, and to develop instruments that will help make social organizations more autonomous and self-sustainable.

One innovative aspect of the program is that it seeks to generate conditions for broad participation by civil society in the design and execution of public policies. The program will also help to encourage volunteerism as an expression of citizen participation. A significant benefit will be the sense of program ownership on the part of government authorities and the more representative civil society organizations.

Risks:

The program will be executed in a relatively new institutional context, embracing a heterogeneous mix of players. To meet this challenge, adequate funding will be provided to establish a highly qualified Program Coordination Unit, and the DOS will be strengthened. Moreover, the program has been accorded high priority both by the government, which has already taken concrete steps to this effect, and by civil society organizations.

Some of the planned changes to the legal framework will require legislative action that may not be completed within the program execution period. To minimize this risk, the program will support consensus-building, through seminars and workshops and the preparation of supporting materials, so that when the legislature considers these changes, it will have high quality technical documentation as the basis for discussion.

Special contractual conditions:	Prior to the first disbursement, the executing agency will submit to the Bank's satisfaction: (a) evidence that: (i) the Program Execution Unit has been established (paragraph 3.3); (ii) the Advisory Council for the program has been established, or, if not, the mandate of the current Citizens' Council for Strengthening Civil Society has been extended (paragraph 3.5); (iii) the Operating Regulations agreed upon with the Bank have entered into force (paragraph 3.8). ; and (iv) the agreement between the executing agency and the Office of the Presidency for execution of the activities under the Ombudsman's Office subcomponent has entered into force (paragraph 2.31); and (b) the program monitoring and evaluation system (paragraph 3.28).
Poverty-targeting and social sector classification:	This operation does not qualify as a social equity enhancing project, as described in the key objectives for Bank activities set forth in the Report on the Eighth Increase in Resources (document AB-1704).
Exceptions to Bank policy:	None
Procurement:	The selection and hiring of consulting services and all procurement called for under the program will be conducted in accordance with standard Bank procedures. Where the amount of goods to be procured equals or exceeds US\$350,000, and where the amount of consulting service contracts exceeds US\$200,000, international competitive bidding with or without prequalification will be required. The program does not contemplate the financing of works. Consulting service contracts of less than US\$50,000 are awarded to individual consultants and of less than US\$100,000 to consulting firms, will be reviewed on an ex post basis by the Bank by sampling.